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6-1978

## 164th Infantry News: June 1978

164th Infantry Association

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# The 164<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY News

Vol. 8, Number 2

1978 in our 36 Assn. yrs.

June, 1978

## Plans on schedule for 164th Infantry reunion in Valley City

### \* \* \* *Arranging reunion*



Officers of the 164th Infantry Association and committees arranging the 1978 reunion in Valley City Oct. 13, 14 and 15 met in Valley City Tuesday. Seated, left to right, Bernard Wagner, general chairman; Mrs. Monte Swanson, Betty Risser, Mary Wagner, Lila Tait, Peggy Conlon. Standing, Norbert (Duke) Thilmony, Mike Conlon, Monte Swanson, Gunder Berg, Clarence Risser, Victor Anundson, Association president; Vernon Martin, Keith Parsons, Walter Winkler, Wally Johnson, Carl Tait. (Photo by Wally Bjornson).

To all  
164th Infantry  
Association  
members and  
families

THE PLAQUE  
INSCRIPTION  
WILL BE:

*You are cordially invited  
to  
attend the dedication ceremonies  
of the  
Chaplain Tracy Memorial Chapel  
To be held on  
June 9th, 1978  
at  
Camp Gilbert C. Grafton,  
Devils Lake, North Dakota  
Services will be at 1330 hours  
i.e. 1:30 P.M. at the Chapel.*

Chaplain Tracy Memorial Chapel  
"The Fox Hole Padre"  
Chaplain Thomas J. Tracy  
164th Infantry Chaplain  
September 12, 1940 — July 14, 1954  
presented and dedicated  
to his honor by members of  
the 164th Infantry Association  
June 9, 1978

Planning for the Oct. 13, 14 and 15 reunion of the 164th Infantry in Valley City is on schedule, officers and committee chairmen indicated at a meeting Tuesday at the VFW club here.

Victor Anundson, Association president, and Bernard Wagner, general chairman, received reports on progress made by committees on the reunion program, memorial service, registration, finance, housing, reunion banquet, providing for other meals and for entertainment.

Conferring with reunion committees Tuesday were Keith P. Parsons, editor of the 164th Infantry News, and Wally Johnson, Association secretary-treasurer. Both are from Bismarck.

Floyd E. Henderson, Fargo, 1978-1979 commander of Veterans of World War I, and Orville Bloch, Streeter, North Dakota Congressional Medal of Honor winner, are to receive North Dakota awards at the reunion. Henderson is a VCSC graduate and served as ND Commissioner of Veterans Affairs.

The Valley Troubadours will sing at the banquet program in the National Guard Armory. Concerts are scheduled by the National Guard band and chorus during reunion festivities. Selection of a master of ceremonies is near, Wagner indicated.

The 164th will dedicate the chapel at Camp Grafton to the memory of Chaplain Thomas J. Tracy June 9, it was announced. Anundson will attend the ceremony.

Reunion activities for women are being arranged by a committee headed by Mary Wagner and Charlotte Anundson. A style show and ladies luncheon is slated at the Elks lodge Oct. 14.

Invited to attend reunion programs are Sen. Milton Young, Sen. Quentin Burdick and Rep. Mark Andrews.

Registration will be at the Veterans of Foreign Wars clubrooms. A Friday "mixer," the Saturday lunch and Sunday "brunch" will also be at the VFW rooms on Main street. The reunion banquet and dances will be at the National Guard armory on Granger Hill.

—From Valley City (ND) Times-Record.



# Local WW 2 vet visits Fijis once more

By LORRAY ANDERSON  
Family Page Editor

For some it would have been a terrific winter vacation . . . for others a tropical paradise . . . but for Mike Busch, a railroad switchman for 33 years, it was, he confided to his wife, Gert, after they arrived in the Fiji Islands of the South Pacific, "one of my dreams come true."

As a member of the Old National Guard 164th Infantry, Busch and his wife, Gert, joined 15 other men from the regiment for a reunion 35 years after they were stationed in the Fiji Islands for R and R (rest and relaxation) during World War II.

During their R and R, says Busch, the men trained with the Fijian troops in jungle warfare from March through November of 1943. Before coming to Fiji, the Americans had seen action at New Caledonia and the Solomon Islands.

After a 13 1/2 hour flight from Los Angeles with a stopover in Hawaii, the Busches arrived at Nadi International Airport on Vita Levu, the largest of 322 islands in the Fiji Islands group.

They stayed in Suva, the capital, near Camp Samabula where Busch was stationed.

He estimated Suva is three times larger now than during the war and was impressed with the modernization that has taken place in the years since he was last there.

Other men and their wives who made the reunion trip were Vern Tittsworth, Miles City, Mont.; Colonel Harold Barker, Bismarck, and Carl Haukedahl, Wildrose, N.D.

The group was entertained by

veterans of the Fijian troops at the Returned Soldiers Association Club.

Later, at the mansion of the governor general, Ratu Sir George Cakobau, the islands' leader, they witnessed the Retreat of the Colors, a military ceremony.

Approximately two miles north of Suva is the village of Caubti where Busch spent many off duty hours getting to know the people.

One of Busch's objectives during the trip was to return to the village and look for people he once knew. During one day off from touring, Busch, with tape recorder in hand and accompanied by Tittsworth, walked to Caubti.

The villagers spoke very little English but were able to direct him to a couple of men Busch asked about.

Those who were children when he was there remembered he was a boxer. One familiar face, however, did not recognize Busch immediately. She had been his laundry woman. How could she forget?

Busch and Tittsworth brought their wives to the village and a couple nights later Mr. and Mrs. Busch were the guests of honor at a feast given by the villagers.

"Very hospitable" was a comment of Mr. and Mrs. Busch in reference to the Fijian people.

An example of this hospitality was a woman who made a special trip to the market to buy potatoes for the feast.

She told Mrs. Busch she was afraid they wouldn't like taro, a vegetable similar to potatoes eaten on the islands.

"Fijian people use very few spices, mostly just salt on the table," Mrs. Busch observed. "Their sugar is raw with a brownish color." The feast included fish, island vegetables and meat, an import from Australia.

During another gathering at the Returned Soldiers Club, a Fijian man approached the table and told one of the visitors that he recognized him. When the Wisconsin man admitted that his memory was not nearly as vivid, the man said the American had saved his life after a battle.

According to the Fijian, now a member of parliament, he had been wounded and thought dead until this man, an Army medic, noticed he was alive and gave him medical attention.

With so many islands in a group and temperatures usually ranging between 70 and 90 degrees, it is the perfect opportunity for someone to buy their own "island paradise." One man familiar to most Americans has done just that.

Raymond Burr, a veteran television actor who starred in the series "Perry Mason" and "Ironsides," owns one of the small islands. He also owns the Fiji Times, a major newspaper in Suva, managed by Stan Ritova.

"Sugar and copra, the white meat of the coconut, are major exports," says Busch, "and they have recently begun a lumber industry."

Mrs. Busch told of a bill before parliament which, if passed, would prohibit a woman from holding a job if her husband earned over \$11,000 a year, the reason for this being that such jobs would be available to lower income families.

Mrs. Busch added, "Fijian income tax is similar to ours, but after the \$11,000 mark, the government takes 50 percent."

Populated by over half a million people including Fijians, Hindus, Indians, Chinese and Europeans, the majority of the citizens speak English as well as Fijian. "The strict British kind," says Mrs. Busch.

When asked about grass huts Busch replied, "You don't see too many bure, or grass huts, any more, like when I was there except in the back country."

"The ones that are left are used by hunters for short stops because the thatched roofs keep the huts cool in the summer."

"The money system in Fiji is the same as here — dollars and cents," said Busch, "but we lost 15 percent in the exchange."

Trained professionals are in great demand in Fiji. The modern equipment in many instances is available, the Busches were told, but not the personnel needed to operate it.

"Every morning the lights were out from 8 to 9:30 a.m. and again in the afternoon from 2 to 3:30 p.m." said Mrs. Busch, an employee of Montana Dakota Utilities for over 20 years.

A few of the World War veterans have returned to make Fiji their home but the "dream come true" for Busch and his companions concluded 11 days after their arrival when they boarded a plane at the Nadi Airport headed for Los Angeles.

They arrived home Jan. 30 just in time for the crippling blizzard in February.

— Reprint from Williston Daily Herald.

## The 164th Infantry News

Official Publication, 164th Infantry  
Association of the United States  
Published Quarterly  
Box 1111  
Bismarck, N. Dak. 58501

KEITH P. PARSONS  
Editor

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## The Last Roll Call

It has been reported that the following named members of the 164th Infantry have answered the LAST ROLL CALL since our last issue:

Bill Lenaghan ..... April 10, 1978 ..... Plymouth, Michigan  
Clarence Lindbo ..... 28 May 1977 ..... MPLS. Minn.



## Letters...

January 3, 1977

The 164th Infantry News  
Box 1111

Bismarck, N.D. 58501

Dear Keith:

Enclosed please find an obituary from my home town newspaper, The New Rockford Transcript.

I thought that you might want to pass the information on concerning Bob Cole's death to the members of the 164.

Sincerely,  
Leo J. Beauclair  
Attorney at Law

### ROBERT W. COLE

Robert W. Cole, oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Cole, former longtime residents of New Rockford and presently living at 6579 West Avenue L, Apt. 40-A, Lancaster, Calif., died of a heart attack in Lamar, Missouri December 4th. Bob was a graduate of Central High School in New Rockford and was an outstanding athlete, being a 4-year letterman in football, basketball and track.

He was a member of the famous 164th Infantry Division and participated in several campaigns in the South Pacific beginning with invasion of Guadalcanal. Later he was a member of the renowned Merrill's Marauders during the Burma campaign. Decorations in-

cluded a silver star, two bronze stars for gallantry and two purple hearts for wounds received in action against the enemy.

Following his discharge Bob joined the Los Angeles Police Department and retired in November 1965 after 20 years of service during which time he also received numerous citations for his police work.

Funeral services were held December 8 at the Reardon Mortuary, Simi Valley, Calif., and interment was in Oakwood Memorial Park, Chatsworth, California. Officiating at the service was Dr. Max Milligan, Atlanta, Georgia, father-in-law of Bob's son, Dennis. Bob's three sons and three brothers were casketbearers. A VFW honor guard was stationed by the flag-draped casket during the chapel service and the Los Angeles Police honor guard fired a fuselage and sounded taps as a last tribute to their comrade at the grave site.

Bob is survived by his wife, Mary; 3 sons, Robert in New Jersey, Dennis, San Diego, and Kelly, Los Angeles; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Cole; a sister, Betty, Orange County; 3 brothers, Dr. Charles Cole, Lansing, Mich., Col. Victor J. Cole, Orlando, Florida, presently serving in Iran, Clayton R. Cole, Fullerton Hills, Calif.; and three granddaughters.

Former New Rockford residents at the service were Bud Herringer of Fresno, Calif., and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Johnson (Mary Ann Thompson) of Lancaster, California.

Dear Wally,

Here with my 78 dues and an extra \$2.00 for whatever.

Have retired from my job as U.S. Immigration Inspector. Just laying around and taking things easy.

Bett and I plan on a trip south about February 1st to the McAllen, Texas area, if we like it there we'll stay a couple of months, if not we will move on.

Take care now and if you see Joe Romsfield give him my regards.

Roy C. Molstad  
Neche, North Dakota 58265

60 Rock Island Rd.  
Quincy, Mass. 02169

President  
164th Infantry Assoc.  
P.O. Box 1111  
Bismarck, N.D. 58501

April 27, 1978

Dear Sir:

Last August I wrote to your Association, prior to your Convention, concerning a possible reprint of our Book "Under the Southern Cross." This book contains the actual account of our participation in WWII in the Pacific.

The first print was made in 1951 by the Association Of The United States Army and the edition was quickly consumed.

During my tour as Commander of the ADVA last year, I came in contact with many members who would like to get a copy of this book. An opportunity arose and after many months of correspondence we now are the proud possessors of the Copyright of our Book "Under the Southern Cross."

Having contacted a printer here in Boston we are now going through the preliminaries. I will contact you as soon as we establish the cost involved.

I have a list of names from your Organization who would like a copy: Jim Fenelon, Lyle Koesterman, Glen Rott, R.W. Moran, Rex Sullivan, Dennis R. Ferk, Les Maquire, James Gilbertson, John Gossett and Vern Titstworth.

The 132nd Inf. Assoc. sent me a list of over 150 names of their members wishing a copy.

This will perhaps be the last opportunity to get a copy of this historical book. Could you get the news out to your members? Time is important. I am sure you are aware of this.

Enclosed find Program of the Dedication of The Americal Memorial Plaque and some applications. I trust you are enjoying a very successful year. Keep well.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Paul J. Jacobs  
PNC ADVA

Dear Sir,

Would you please put a message in the 164th News that I am a collector of military and police patches and insignia and would appreciate donations, trades, or will purchase items.

Thank you,  
Daniel G. Merlin  
21 Bateswell Road  
Dorchester, MA. 02124

As US COUNTRY-FOLK SEE IT —

THE PANAMA CANAL.....  
THE DECISION IS EASY.....  
SHOULD WE FIGHT TO

KEEP IT OR FIGHT  
TO GET IT BACK?

?





## A Look At Operation Fiji

A most adventurous operation of our time ETTEUS VOUS PRET?

(Continued from last issue.)

3-8-78

Dear Keith, Sorry the delay, had the flu, am writing in a hurry so here goes.

As others have probably already told you -- it took 5 hours to Hawaii and 6 more to Fiji. All via Pan Am with liberal free lunches and champagne! The 747 was packed going to Hawaii, but we expected a smaller load going to Fiji. We were wrong!

Arrived Nadi, Tue, shortly after daylight and were transported to the Fijian Resort Hotel. It's a lovely place, so designed to utilize the natural habitat. (Five bars, four dining setups, golf, tennis, bowling, girls and flowers).

The second day we cabbed into Sigitoka to get Fijian scratch. U.S. Travelers checks exchanged for 86 cents Fijian, U.S. cash only 82 cents Fijian, don't ask why.

We were invited into the Sigitoka Club by the owner. Dinner here was \$1.10, beer 55 cents per imperial quart. (At the Fiji Resort it was 95 cents a pint!)

Traveled to Suva by bus the third day. (Thurs.) The roads haven't changed, narrow and hairy! They are building a new road from Suva to Nadi on the west coast and it is already through the easiest part. (Suva to Sea Beach--about 30 miles) It will be one expensive road before it gets to Nadi, as the old road climbs from sea level to 3500 feet several times, steep up and steep down!

Suva hadn't changed a great deal. Remodeled a bit due to a hurricane in the '60s.

Sukuna and Albert Park are the same, but they have built a new modern and imposing government capitol next to Albert Park (on the way downtown).

The old GPH and Metropole Hotels are still in business, with the GPH modernized and enlarged.

Rates at the GPH are still low. (\$18 a double) Oh yes, a new Travelodge next to the GPH on a sandfill by the ocean.

After our bunk assignments and lunch at the GP, we were given a tour of old camp locations. The only building left on A & B camps at Samabula was my old barracks.

(On the hill). Several Indian families are living there now.

Our tour guide was Joe Ramacake, pronounced Ramathaw-kee. Joe was our govt. guide during our stay in Suva. He appeared at the GPH at daylight and stayed with us until quite late each evening. He helped us bend elbows and make friends!

After the camp tour we cleaned up and were transported to the Returned Soldiers and Ex-Servicemens Assn. for a cocktail party and to meet Sir George Cakobau and the Fiji veterans.

While at the club, we presented Sir George with our Association Coat of Arms as shown in the enclosed photo. The inscription reads: To Sir George Cakobau, Gov Gen. Fiji Islands "Finally, a reunion after 34 years!" 164th Inf. Assn. (This coat of arms is framed and is now hanging in the club).

Ian Thomson and Jack Costello, who arranged the trip at the Fiji end, were kind enough to invite some of my old friends to this cocktail party so it was quite a thrill for me!

Friday A.M. was for shopping. At 4:45 P.M. we were lifted to Government House for a Retreat formation and social with Sir George and Lady Lelea Cakobau. (Pronounced Thack-om-bow) Here we presented the letter and medallion entrusted to us by Gov. Arthur Link, to Sir George. In return, they presented a cake to us inscribed "Happy Reunion, 164th Infantry and Fiji!" The cake was a work of art! (I later found out that Lady Cakobau made it herself).

The Fiji Army band marched and played the entire two hours we were there. They can swing just as well as any orchestra and they were good! Government House is beautiful, as nice as the White House, and the landscaping is superior. (About 40 acres of nothing but flowers).

On Saturday morning most of the party attended a Lovo (Fiji feast) at Pacific Harbour. (The old Sea Beach where the rest of the camp used to be).

Sunday we met the Fijian veterans at Sukuna Park (downtown) where we shook hands all around and marched as a group to the Centenary Church for service. The 164th group marched in a column of 3's, behind the Fiji Army

Band. The Fiji veterans followed behind us. The column was very lengthy, the streets were crowded and it was hot! The church held 2000 people and 400 stood outside during the service (Methodist).

After the service Sir George and Lady Lelea invited Hetty and I to visit Govt House during the afternoon. We chewed over old times and viewed the harbor from Govt House balcony.

The remainder of the trip was an anti climax. We spent several more days at the Fiji Resort Hotel and stopped over in Honolulu for a brief visit.

Upon arriving at Los Angeles Airport, we were met by my old friend Johnny Wells (Co E. ) He and his wife Rhea had driven quite some distance to meet us and we appreciated it! He is hoping to make the reunion this fall.

The travel group was fortunate in having Luther and JoAnn Bjerke along, to shoulder our headaches travelwise. (They represented Brekke Travel). Everything went so smoothly that we have all been invited to Fiji again next year. It was a wonderful trip!

Chuck Walker

As we stepped off the Pan Am 747 it was 5:30 A.M. but, it was obvious that my light leisure suit would be far too warm for the Fiji climate. The bus trip to the resort proved that the island is really as lush and green as we had told our wives. Mountain tops, rocks, coral formations, all are green with vegetation, along with the bamboo and palm trees. After a couple of days at the most fabulous resort, some swimming in the ocean (warmer than you would fill your bathtub) and allowing our wives "passes" to shop in a nearby village; we left for our trip to Suva.

As we entered the lobby of the Grand Pacific Hotel we were handed tall cool fruit drinks, by barefoot Fijian girls, at that moment the public address blared "Ladies and gentlemen and the people now entering the hotel are the members and wives of the grand and glorious 164th Infantry, returned to Fiji after 35 years." A reception like that just has to bring a tear or two to your eyes and few "goose bumps". Once again we felt like returned heroes. Many times



during the next few days those people expressed their true friendship and expressed gratitude for the Americans "saving them from the Japanese." Our wives were amazed at the warmth, friendship, happiness and singing ability of those wonderful Fijian people. These wonderful people and islands have not been "discovered" by the general tourists of the world and they remain quite unspoiled.

After a short time to get settled in our rooms, we were taken on a tour of Suva and to the various sites where our companies were camped. The spots are identifiable, but naturally built up and after all those years. The evening featured a reception at their "Returned Veterans Club," featuring beer, hors d'oeuvres and renewing old acquaintances. Some of the group remembered some individuals, and after a few more beers the natives got even friendlier and the 164 group was their old selves. Suva has a brewery and make "Fiji Bitters" beer. It's very good; but where was it 35 years ago when we really needed it? This was our first meeting with the Governor General, who made his formal entrance. A couple beats on the Lali Drum and the whole noisy crowd came to attention and barely breathed as he and his wife came across the hall to greet us. The Governor fairly beamed with joy at meeting Chuck Walker again. After greeting everyone Chuck presented the 164 emblem to the Governor and the party proceeded. When we finally did leave the party our wives had their first chance to hear the natives sing Isa Lai to us as only they can. (More happy tears in eyes and goose bumps).

Saturday was a picnic and Lovo (feast) at Pacific Harbors. (This is about 35 miles from Suva and was a rest camp in WWII now a complete resort complex).

Our evening of the formal reception at the Governors' Palace will never be forgotten (we wore dress suits and neckties). With the changing of the Guards, Retreat Ceremonies and the Royal Fijian Army Band playing "our kind of music" on the lawn; while we had cocktails and more food in the palace. All their higher military and navy officers, members of their Parliament and the American Charge-de-Affairs were there. We

N.D. farm boys thought this kind of stuff was only in the movies. It was here that we presented the medallion from Governor Link.

Sunday morning was the parade and memorial service. You'll never believe it but the 164th guys, again with dress suits, ties, 85 degree heat and 100 percent humidity, volunteered to parade. We assembled in the park (not far from the Metropole Hotel Bar) shook hands with about 400 of their veterans, fell in behind the Royal Fijian Police Band and led the parade of about 400, through downtown and to the Centenary Methodist Church for a memorial mass (another big thrill and a few more eye tears and bumps. I'm sure Col. Harold Barker even choked up a little). You would have been proud of them, even the ex-medics were in step.

Monday morning the Governor General again honored us by com-

## Letters...

P.O. Box 2836  
Santa Fe, N. Mex. 87501  
January 11, 1978

Dear Keith:

Congratulations on your first issue of the 164th Infantry News. You have published a commendable product.

I have been trying to find the time to write to you since the reunion, however, it seems that I am always running about 6 months late. My work at the office is behind and so is everything else. I am attempting to try to catch up on all my work before we leave for the Fiji Tour. I just may get it accomplished.

If I don't get a letter written to Bill Tillotson, let him know that I haven't forgotten him. I want to send him some information on the items I have on the history.

I like the format that you used for the News. You might consider publishing the financial statement of the last reunion. There are also a lot of photos available in Col. Brocopp's files from previous camps and wars that may be of interest to the members. Col. Johnson had the contents of Col. Brocopp's library unless it has been loaned to the Adjutant General for their research for the history. I see that this year the

ing to the hotel to see us off. We went on a scenic tour around the east and north sides of the island on return to the resort near Singatoka. This was a beautiful eight hour bus ride and took us through the rain forest, the drier northeast corner of the island as well as through the sugar cane area.

Life around the Fijian resort was a South Sea Island dream.

The rooms, restaurants, shops, bars and swimming pools were fabulous. I woke each morning an hour or two earlier than usual to the sound of birds and sea, with anxious anticipation of new things to do each day. This is the highest recommendation as I'm normally a slow starter.

Our last day was a 1½ hour boat trip to Beachcomber Island. A full day of fun, sun, beach, glass bottom boats and another Lovo (feast).

It was a perfect vacation. If there is another such trip, try to make it. It is more than worth the money and the long flight.

Ray Patton

Association goes into its 36th year. No doubt you will change that on the heading on the next issue.

By the time the next issue is ready for printing, you will probably have lots of news about the Fiji tour. I imagine that Chuck Walker will keep you well informed on how the trip went. I will consult with him to determine whether I can help him with any information or photos. Dorothy and I are anxiously awaiting the day that we leave. We have many things already packed and hope that our health holds so that we will be able to enjoy the trip. The preparation has taken many hours since the reunion in October. There were a lot of items that required attention to get ready. The trip will be more expensive than we expected, but one can always borrow.

Keep up the good work on the News. I especially enjoyed the list of officers and articles about the Fiji trip and the one about Father Tracy. It appears you have the job of Editor well in hand. Again, Congratulations.

Sincerely  
Dennis R. Ferik

P.S. Give my greetings to Wally and Stan and others who remember me.



## Letters . . .

Dear Members of 164th Infantry,

I received your publication today and have the address. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all those who made Gene's 1st reunion such a pleasure for both of us. He was so thrilled to see those whom he hadn't seen for 43 years. Those of you who visited us in the motel were especially appreciated.

However while we were resting in Miles City at my sister's home Gene had a heart attack on October 11th; he was in the V.A. Hospital at Miles City until October 30th when he passed away. He is buried in the Monarch Mt-Cemetery near his cabin in the mountains. With full Military Honors he joins his buddies. His soul now rests with our loving and understanding God.

Thank you again,  
Mrs. Gene Carroll  
Caroline  
801 6th Ave. N.  
Great Falls, Montana  
59401

Dear Waldemar,

Enclosed you find my dues for \$5.00 plus \$10.00 to help your kitty along. We have had rain more or less in the desert since before Christmas. The ground is taking the moisture wonderfully. The rainfall so far is 7.82" of rain. It certainly is enough to send the desert flowers blooming. We will perhaps have some new type that old that old King Solomon dropped in the desert years ago. They are beautiful and delicate when they bloom.

So sorry the power that cannot be see fit to change the annual 164th reunion from October every year to December or January 15 when no one can get to North Dakota. Laying all kidding aside I'm sure you'd have a wonderful reunion if you did have it in September or even August. You'd perhaps run around 800 to 1,000 164th members and they'd spend some money visiting around the old state. I know I for one will have to give it up with the set dates of October as I love to drive. If you had it out in Yucca Valley in October it would be different as all roads are open and

there are plenty of cities in a 30 mile radius that can house us all. Besides the Marine General at the base in 29 Palm (only 20 miles away) would be happy to have us there for the Banquet and other shows (See what the new armaments is all about).

I will go in for my lung cancer check up January 30th. Guess I told you they removed the left lung almost 3 years ago and so far so good.

Our new VA Hospital is open at Loma Linda (500 miles away). When they complete and furnish the rooms it will hold 500 beds. The Loma Linda Medical College is nearby.

Near Riverside a new national cemetery is in the making and should be ready to receive bodies some time this summer. Its the old Camp Hahn across from March Air Force Base and I believe the first plot of ground they are working on will hold 380,000 Veterans. It will be the Arlington National Cemetery of the west.

I really do hope your snow and winter weather will taper off. Greet anyone that may know me.

Sincerely  
Col. Samuel Baglien (Ret)  
P.O. Drawer A.  
Yucca Valley, CA 92284

Secretary of 164th Inf. Assn.

I feel as though there are very few of the real old 1st N.D. Infantry.

I enlisted at Fort Lincoln in July 1916 and went to the Border with the Regiment. The following spring I was attached to Co. A in guarding the Missouri River bridge. Stayed on with the Infantry through W.W.I.

Years later I commanded Co. F and was Captain of Co. B for a while. When we left for Camp Claibourne I was commander of the 1st Bn. A few months later I was transferred to the headquarters of the 34th Division and remained with the division until the end of the war.

I hope to attend the reunion this year if I am able to make it back to the good state of North Dakota.

Yours,  
Frank L. Putnam  
402 Fontaine St.  
Alexandria, Virginia  
22302

John Schuld

Will be unable to attend the reunion this year due to illness in the family. So am enclosing a check for \$20.00, \$5.00 for tickets and \$5.00 for dues in 1978 and take the other \$10.00 for anything you can use it for.

Sincerely  
William F. Babbe  
1013 Wolfe St.  
Jokiet, Ill. 60433

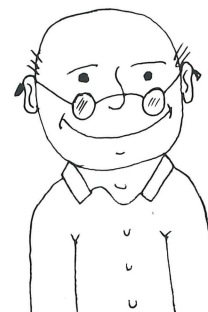
Sept. 26, 1977  
Dear Comrades,  
Bula Vunaka!

Enclosed find the check for the tickets. Sorry I can't be with you but we have the 23rd Annual YMCA Rodeo the same week-end. I hope the reunion is a howling success and give my personal regards to all of my friends.

George  
Dr. G. M. Christensen  
15 Fairway  
Minot, ND 58701



I MAY HAVE MISSED  
A FEW CONVENTIONS  
AND EVEN REUNIONS,  
BUT NOT MY 1978 DUES!



By ABBOTT  
OBERLIN, LA.  
11/8/77

## Letters...

### United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 23, 1978

Mr. Victor Anundson, President  
164th Infantry Association  
P. O. Box 44  
Valley City, North Dakota 58072

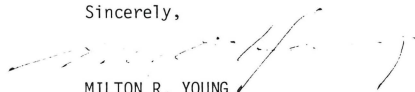
Dear Mr. Anundson:

Just a note to acknowledge and thank you for your recent letter inviting me to be an honored guest at your annual reunion on October 13, 14 and 15 in Valley City.

I greatly appreciate this invitation, Mr. Anundson. It is difficult at this time for me to determine whether or not I will be able to get away at that time and I hope you don't mind if I let you know definitely a little later. I know your members all enjoy this annual get-together and I hope you will have the best convention ever.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,



MILTON R. YOUNG

MRY/lc

### Congress of the United States

House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

April 3, 1978

Mr. Victor Anundson, President  
164th Infantry Association  
PO Box 44  
Valley City, North Dakota 58072

Dear Vic:

Thanks so very much for your letter and your kind invitation to be with you for your annual reunion in Valley City, on October 14.

Mary and I will certainly make every effort to stop by for this occasion. As my staff told you, I am committed to be at Fargo for NDSU's Homecoming that day, but if the events there are such that we can get away, we will certainly be joining you. We will, of course, be in touch with you later when the plans are more firmed up.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



MARK ANDREWS  
Congressman for North Dakota

435 Canton Ave.,  
Milton, Mass., 02187  
March 24, 1978

Keith P. Parsons, Editor,  
The 164th Infantry News,  
Box 1111,  
Bismarck, N.D., 58501

Dear Mr. Parsons:

A copy of your excellent Newsletter is forwarded to me since I am the editor of the ADVA Newsletter, and I read with interest the account of your recent group trip to the Fijis.

I was particularly interest in a letter and a picture of Charles Walker and Governor General George Cakombau, with his note that George served with the 3rd Fiji Bn. on Bougainville, having served with that group; out the East

West Trail in 1943 as an artillery forward observer.

Would it be possible to have the address of Charles Walker, so I might contact him directly?

I have also taken the liberty of using this article in our forthcoming March April issue of the ADVA Newsletter. If I can be of any help to you or your organization in publicizing events, etc. I certainly will be happy to do so.

In another capacity I am also East Coast VP of the Guadalcanal Veterans.

Best Personal Regards,  
BILL McLAUGHLIN

P.S. Later in the 21th Recon I worked often with the 164th on Ley te and Bohoe.

Dear Sir,

I enclose checks for \$10.00 for dues and their incidentals. Am in contact with Bagliew, Ordahl, O'Keefe, Weist and others out here and am trying to get them to Valley City next October.

The wife and I enjoyed Dickinson. Although we were a day late due to bad weather. My best regards to all back in North Dakota.

Will see you in Valley in October.

John A. Gasset  
1611 Sunset  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

#### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP and/or ANNUAL RENEWAL 164th INFANTRY ASSOCIATION of the UNITED STATES

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Served With and Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code No. \_\_\_\_\_

**DUES FOR 1978 — \$5.00, includes subscription to 164th News**

**Send to: Waldemar Johnson, Box 1111, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501**

## Dedication of Americal Memorial Plaque

An Americal Memorial Plaque was dedicated April 8th, 1978 at Otis Memorial Park, Otis Air Force Base, Falmouth, Massachusetts. It contains the following inscription "Dedicated As An Everlasting Tribute To All Who Served With And For The Americal Division." The program was dedicated in memory of PNC William F. McGoldrick, Sr. who was a World War II U.S. Army veteran and Past National Commander of the Americal Division Veterans Association. EX-TINCTUS AMABITUR IDEM i.e. The same man when dead will be loved.



# ANNOUNCING

# OPERATION FIJI '79

## SECOND ANNUAL REUNION IN THE FIJIS

## OFFERED AGAIN BY POPULAR DEMAND!

### JANUARY 14-26, 1979

**MISSION:** R&R, sightseeing, and renewal of friendships. Daily itinerary:

**January 14:** Depart Lost Angeles on Pan American 811 at 2015 hrs.

**January 15:** En route.

**January 16:** Arrive in Nadi at 0530 hrs. Transfer to Fijian Resort Hotel on Yanuca Island. Rest of day at leisure.

**January 17:** Free day for relaxing in the sun, golfing, boating, or shopping in duty-free shops in Sigatoka.

**January 18:** Motorcoach departs Fijian Resort Hotel at 0900 hrs. for a scenic drive to Suva. Arrival in Suva by 1300 hrs. for lunch with Fijian veterans and/or government officials. After dinner, a retreat ceremony will be scheduled at the headquarters of the Royal Fiji Military Forces in Suva. Overnight at the Grand Pacific Hotel.

**January 19:** Full day tour of former U.S. Army camp sites surrounding Suva. Wives may prefer to shop in Suva. Evening cocktail party at the clubhouse of Returned Soldiers and Ex-Servicemen's Association in Suva. Overnight at the Grand Pacific Hotel.

**January 20:** Morning transfer to boat landings for sea transport to Ovalau to meet veteran's groups there. Overnight at local hotels or in private homes.

**January 21:** Day at leisure on Ovalau island. Return to Suva and stay overnight at Grand Pacific Hotel.

**January 22:** Morning departure by motorcoach, travelling via northern coast Kings Road. After stopping at the Raki Raki Hotel for lunch, the group will visit the mining town of Tavua, and continue along Kings Road to Ba and Lautoka. Tour participants who wish to take the optional Blue Lagoon Cruise departing from Lautoka the next morning (January 23) will stay at the Cathay Hotel in Lautoka. The remainder of the group will continue back to the Fijian Resort Hotel, arriving by early evening.

**January 23:** The optional Blue Lagoon Cruise departs this morning

from Lautoka, lasting three days and two nights. Tour participants who do not take this cruise will have three free days to indulge in the numerous recreational and entertainment activities of the Fijian Resort Hotel or to take independent day excursions.

**January 24:** Free day.

**January 25:** Free day.

**January 26:** Free day. At 2100 hrs. a motorcoach will depart from the Fijian Resort Hotel to transfer the group to the airport for check-in on Pan Am 812 departing Nadi at 2359 hrs. The flight will stop in Honolulu en route to Los Angeles, and tour participants who desire an optional stopover in Honolulu may do so. Arrival in Honolulu is 0800 hrs., and in Los Angeles at 1740 hrs. the same day.

#### PRICE:

\$1049 per person from Los Angeles, San Francisco, or Seattle.

\$1235 from Bismarck.

\$1264 from Fargo.

\$1274 from Grand Forks (Rates from other cities available on request).

The itinerary and prices are subject to change. For details contact: Luther Bjerke, 40 Brette Travel, Box 846, Grand Forks, N. Dak. 58201.

Call: 1 (800) 732-4300 (Toll-free, N.D. only) or (701) 775-5561.

## Letters...

931 Cottonmouth Drive  
Harker Heights, Texas 76541

April 10, 1978

Mr. Don Oster,

Enclosed is my check for \$8.00 to join the Company "G" Association and the 164th Infantry Association.

I look back with fond memory of the association, friendship, and professionalism during my assignment with Co G, 164th Infantry.

After over 26 years of military service, I have always considered my formative years, with Company G and the 164th Infantry, with its abundance of World War II experienced and professional soldiers, a highlight of my career.

Hope to be in Valley City for at least one of the reunions in 1978.

In comradeship,  
LAUREN M. OVERYBY  
Colonel, Infantry  
United States Army (Retired)

Dear Mr. Parsons:

Please add to "The Last Roll Call" one of my "Co. K." buddies: Clarence Lindbo, W.W.II, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

I lost my friend on May 28, 1977.

I brought this up at the last business meeting — at the reunion in Dickinson and apparently it wasn't published due to an oversight.

Thanking you,  
JOHN RIEDL

Sir,

Enclosed is a check for \$8.00, in payment of the Company G dues and the membership dues for the 164th Infantry.

Sorry I didn't get the check in sooner but, we were in the process of moving and I wanted to send a change of address too. Thank you for contacting me. I appreciate the list of names.

GUS LEHINAN  
By (S.M. Lehinan)

## The 164th Infantry News

Box 1111  
BISMARCK, N. D. 58501

ALVIN TOLLEF3RUD

MAYVILLE, NDAK 58257

*Handwritten notes:*  
#4  
overlook May  
Amber